

February 15, 2017

To the esteemed members of the Connecticut State Legislature's Appropriations Committee:

I am submitting in writing my disagreement with Governor Malloy's proposed budget, specifically in reference to the redistribution of funds from most of the towns in Connecticut to several cities. This budget must not be permitted to pass.

I reside in East Hampton which is a fiscally conservative, smaller town that carefully considers its budgetary spending. Education budget planning is underway for 2017-18. Like other towns of our size, we are challenged to effectively provide for our students while simultaneously controlling the burden that an increase in taxes would impose on its residents. Redirecting funding from our town is an unacceptable method to repair the years of fiscal mismanagement evident at the city level, and would have a direct and devastating impact on our town's ability to meet its educational needs.

Governor Malloy's proposal is an affront to all of the communities who work diligently to maintain fiscal responsibility and would constitute an overt attempt at wealth redistribution. According to the Connecticut School Finance Report (<http://ctschoolfinance.org/spending/per-student>) Hartford has one of the highest per capita spending on education compared to other districts in the state, yet is managed so ineffectively as to require a bailout from other towns. Who is accountable for the dismal outcome of Connecticut city budgets? Perhaps more insulting, is the prospect that said funds would be appropriated to non-education based activities. Expecting towns to bear the brunt of poor accounting practices equates to nothing less than punishment to those who work so hard to do the right thing.

The governor's proposal is not acceptable and would deliver a devastating blow to the town of East Hampton and its sister towns if allowed to pass. Please do everything in your power to stop this proposal from moving forward.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Dawn Jameson and Jocelyn Fauvel
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